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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Ulyses Baker Jr, age 41, of Atlanta, Georgia, was convicted by a jury late yesterday in United States District Court in Norfolk, of conspiracy to obstruct commerce by robbery, conspiracy to transport and dispose of stolen property and money laundering conspiracy. Baker faces a maximum prison term of 45 years, a fine of \$750,000, costs of prosecution and full restitution when sentenced by United States District Judge Jerome B. Friedman on March 13, 2006.

From July 31, 2001, through May 14, 2003, Ulyses Baker, together with Crustantion McRae, Terrell Brewer, Tauheed Shakir, Troy Anthony Sherrell, Bryan Kelly and Seneca Jovon Colbert, participated in a conspiracy to rob a total of 15 jewelry stores, many of them located in outlet malls, and one pawn shop, in the East Coast states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. Baker provided travel money and sent funds via wire transfers to McRae from Atlanta, Georgia, as expense money to facilitate the commission of the robberies.

The conspirators selected Zales Outlet Jewelry Stores and Friedman's Jewelry Stores to maximize the amount of stolen jewelry obtainable, to minimize the time needed to commit the robberies, and to lower the risk of apprehension. The stolen jewelry was transported across state lines to Baker in Atlanta, where he converted it to currency and provided the currency to the robbers. In addition, Baker used proceeds from the criminal activity to obtain bail to keep the robbers on the streets. The participants entered the stores brandishing handguns and demanded jewelry, cash and the store's video security tapes. The robbers made quick getaways by forcing the employees to empty the display cases into shopping bags and then fleeing the stores.

Baker's conviction is the seventh conviction in this case. Those already sentenced include:

Seneca Colbert - sentenced to 324 months incarceration on August 8, 2004, for his participation in a Williamsburg robbery;

Tauheed Shakir - . sentenced on February 28, 2005, to 220 months for his participation in the Williamsburg robbery, a robbery in Leesburg, Virginia, and a firearms offense;

Bryan Kelly - sentenced on January 18, 2005, to 204 months for conspiracy to commit robberies of interstate businesses, and a firearms offense;

Terrell Brewer - sentenced on April 6, 2005 to 180 months for conspiracy to interfere with

commerce;

Crustantion McRae - sentenced on March 16, 2005, to 240 months for conspiracy to interfere with commerce, a firearms offense, and money laundering conspiracy;

Troy Sherrell - sentenced on May 20, 2005, to 168 months for conspiracy to interfere with commerce and a firearms offense.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and numerous other local police and sheriffs departments throughout the Southeastern United States. Assistant United States Attorney Howard J. Zlotnick prosecuted the case for the United States.

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